

RECALL PETITIONS IN CIRCULATION AGAINST RISDON

Two Opposing Factions in Local School Affairs Lining Up For Test of Strength—Attorneys Have Been Retained on Both Sides—Trustees Ait is Supporting Risdon.

Public school matters have been the principal topic of discussion in Clifton this week following the meeting of the Board of Trustees which was attended by Chas. Ait, President, of the Board and O. A. Risdon, Clerk. Member John Grimes not attending.

At the meeting this week the selection of teachers from the local corps were made for the approaching term and when the announcement of selections were known dissatisfaction was expressed in several quarters on account of the failure of several old teachers in the Clifton schools to be re-elected for another term.

This dissatisfaction culminated on Thursday and Friday of this week when recall petitions were put in circulation demanding the recall of O. A. Risdon, as a member of the school board. Whether a recall petition can be directed against a member of the school board is a question upon which attorneys disagree and both sides to the controversy have retained attorneys and the question will no doubt eventually find its way into the courts. It is pointed out by the attorney for Mr. Risdon that no nominating petition is necessary to become a candidate for school trustee, and the recall law does not designate any officer to receive any recall petition against a school trustee or give any officer the authority to call a recall election to remove a school trustee. On the other hand those who are dissatisfied with the acts of trustees Ait and Risdon, in the selection of teachers for the ensuing term, state that the recall provision applies to all elective officers in Arizona, and as a school trustee is an elective officer, a way will be found to put the machinery in motion. In the event that the recall election is sustained by the courts the factional fight that has crept into our school administration will be fought over with about the same line-up that was witnessed in the recent election of Ait for a member on the Board. Mr. Ait has declared that he will support Mr. Risdon in the event of a recall election.

The Era has been furnished a list of teachers, employed in the Clifton schools last year, who failed to put in an application to the present Board. They are thirteen in number and are as follows: Misses Joy, Backstein, Martin, Saddler, O'Donnell, Gates, Swartz, Stealey, McAllister, Calkins, Hope, Darden and Mrs. Freeland Kearney.

The City Superintendent and High School Principal has been selected by the Board in the person of J. A. Davis, who for the past two years has been principal of the Benson schools, and came to Arizona from Illinois. He is a man of family and a graduate of the Illinois State Normal. He spent several days here this week in consultation with Messrs. Ait and Risdon regarding school matters and will arrive in Clifton on June 1st to take up his new duties. In addition to having charge of all the schools in the city the new superintendent will teach two classes in the high school.

In the high school only three of the former teachers have been retained. These include P. M. George and Miss Zella Roberts in the Commercial department and C. C. Curtis, mathematics.

Other teachers re-elected for the ensuing term include Miss Saddler, North Clifton; Miss Young, Shannon Hill; Miss Lisle, Chase Creek; Miss Bain, Art Supervisor; Misses Robbins, Sweeting, Griggs, Ditchenmiller, J. Bain, Mrs. Carleton, Mrs. Clements, Mrs. Wallace and Miss McDuffy.

New teachers so far selected by the Board are Miss Ait, Miss Hill, Miss Bond, and Miss Byrnes, who taught last year in Duncan and Mrs. Chas. Spann, and Miss Noyes, of Safford, supervisor of music.

It is announced that a man teacher will be selected as Principal of the Hill School.

Ait Makes Statement.
Mr. Ait when interviewed today relative to his revolutionary (?) policies stated:

"The greatest innovation in my opinion was the selection of teachers without consideration of their political influence, their relationship to any other citizen, or their place of residence in our city.

"They were considered in the light of the best information obtainable as to their qualifications. One of the disadvantages under which the board labored was the fact that most teachers who applied did so by merely handing in their names on a list, from each school, of those who cared to apply and gave no list of certificates or diplomas held; no reference as to their training for the position desired nor any other information for our consideration. Some few of the teachers made a separate application giving this information in full, in addition to handing in their name on the aforesaid lists. I, as a member, inferred that the others wished to be judged solely on their records as teachers in the Clifton schools and used every effort to obtain the opinion of the parents of pupils in each teachers room, and if I have been misinformed in any case, it was not through lack of interest upon my part in seeking information upon which to base a decision. I have no object in serving on the Board other than the pledges I gave as a candidate to run the schools upon a business basis for the good of our children.

"We have been misrepresented in many matters, among other things it being reported that we desire to cut out certain branches. That is false as our intention is to add Spanish to the studies and to drop nothing. We have also been misunderstood as to our placing of teachers. The Board reserves the right to place grade teachers in any grade, and high school teachers in the places to which they are best suited, if any one wrongly placed at the beginning of the school term.

"As stated in the Mining Journal all we ask is consideration, and a trial before hasty action, or decision, and the co-operation of every patron of our schools during this trial period.

"It is to be expected that my official acts will not be pleasing to my late opponents, but the people who supported me in the election, have as yet made no complaint, and have on the other hand promised their ardent support in the reported coming recall election. Such supporters as have left my standard are those who have solicited favors on the grounds of friendship, or the support given in my campaign, and have not received the favors asked for. I said I would consider the schools' welfare first and I have done so.

"In the coming recall election I am certain the people of this city will repeat their verdict of March 27, and demonstrate in a convincing manner that the schools should be kept from the influence of politicians and social element of this city."

"Further, in behalf of Mr. Curtis and the harmony of the high school, I wish to state: That only at the solicitation of the Board, and since it was known to Mr. Curtis that he was to remain for another year, was anything said pertaining to the manner in which the high school was conducted or anything pertaining to any of the faculty, and the information which was given was given only in a professional manner. Owing to the fact that some of the new high school applications were placed in the hands of Mr. Curtis that he might assist the Board in selecting applicants for positions there, the wrong impression may be prevailing which I wish to correct with the above statement."

Statement from Risdon.

In a statement given out for publication this week Clerk of the Board O. A. Risdon said that during the past year he had been a minority member of the board with no influence whatever and consequently could not be judged on the past and that his new policies had not yet been tested, so a recall is unjustifiable at present. He further said that by advice of his attorney he has decided to sue for libel the authors and signers of the recall petition if any charges of an untrue nature are incorporated in it. He says if the schools are not in better shape than they ever have been by next January that a recall will be unnecessary as he will voluntarily resign. He also claims that no personal prejudices had been allowed in hiring teachers and they were selected purely on the grounds of fitness. The new board has a certain policy, as outlined in the recent campaign, and when they found a teacher who was not in sympathy

ARIZONA CHAPTER OF MINING CONGRESS DOES GOOD WORK

Will Before Long Have on File Reliable and Up-to-Date Information About Practically Every Mine and Prospect Within the State.

PHOENIX, April 22.—A new department has been opened by the Arizona Chapter of the American Mining Congress. It is an information department.

The officers of the Chapter hope before long to have on file reliable and up-to-date information about practically every mine and prospect in the state of Arizona. To this end they are issuing a general request to owners to send all essential information they are willing to disclose about their holdings to the head office, 117 North Second Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona. Upon request a blank, to be filled out and returned, will be furnished.

"Every day we receive inquiries about mining properties and about mining districts, or opportunities to invest in mines of a certain character," said Secretary John H. Robinson. These inquiries come from all parts of the United States and even from foreign countries. Each one is answered carefully. Sometimes we have been a little slow in replying to letters of inquiry because we had first to gather the desired information from the most reliable sources available.

"Our desire is to have accurate information on file in this office about all mining properties and districts in the state. Then when we receive an inquiry we can reply without any delay whatever, giving out the information exactly as furnished to us and in all cases, of course, stating its source. Our conviction is that this will do a great deal to stimulate mining in Arizona because it will aid the prospective investor in obtaining data regarding available properties and will enable the owner to get in touch with the man who has money to invest. The intention of the Chapter is not to act as a broker in any sense of the word but merely to be a friendly medium in bringing investor and owner together, to their mutual profit. Already several important deals have been consummated that are directly traceable to the work of the Chapter.

"It is not only in regard to mines that we receive inquiries. The Chapter has been called upon to answer questions about many other industries in Arizona and has done so with the greatest of cheerfulness, for the aim of the organization is to advance the interests of Arizona in every possible way. This office is glad to receive, file and disseminate information regarding any industry that is carried on, or can be carried on, within the state."

The membership roll of the Arizona Chapter shows a steady and satisfactory increase. At present there are over 400 members in good standing and more are joining daily. Local sections have been organized in Globe and Tucson and both are in flourishing condition.

Highly encouraging news of the general condition of the mining industry throughout the state is being received at the Chapter headquarters. Zinc and copper are soaring in price and many mining men expect the red metal to go to twenty cents a pound shortly. Copper mines that have been wholly or partially shut down since last fall are resuming on their former basis. The strong demand for gold mines, which became so noticeable in the course of the winter, continues.

Old Time Cattleman Here—

Walter Fife, an old time cattleman in this section and other portions of Southern Arizona, but now employed as traveling representative of a hide buying company in Los Angeles, spent two days in this district this week interviewing the butchers. Mr. Fife helped drive the first bunch of cattle on Eagle Creek for the Chiricahua Cattle Co. in 1887 and was a frequent visitor in Clifton during those days.

with that policy his, or her services would be dispensed with as harmony is a necessity for good schools.

LAWMAKERS AGAIN GATHERING IN PHOENIX

Dr. Sims, President of the Senate Is Early on the Battle Ground.

GOVERNOR MAY TRY TO DISPLACE BROOKS

No Estimate on Probable Length of Session Is Forthcoming.

PHOENIX, April 20.—The clans are gathering.

Clans in this particular instance refers to the members of the upper and lower branches of the second Arizona legislature which will convene in extraordinary session at 10 of the clock, ante meridian, on Friday next.

Dr. W. P. Sims, president of the senate, has been in town for several days. Senator Campbell is also among those present. Senator Stapley is home from a trip to Utah with his limbs girded for the fray. Speaker Brooks will be here tomorrow or next day; John Christy has been in town between sessions; others are here, on the way or busily engaged in packing their knapsacks.

By Thursday it is expected that the roster will be about complete. There will be preliminary caucuses at the Adams hotel Wednesday, a dress rehearsal the day following and a "last word" early Friday morning.

Hardly a single member is willing to guess as to the length of the session. Certain eventualities, eventuating, it will be short; certain other eventualities failing to eventuate, the dog days may find the solons still struggling through the daily roll call.

The governor has not yet decided whether or not he will insist upon organizing the house along pro-Hunt lines. He does decide to take the bit in his teeth and teach the members who have declined to don the bridge their place in the scheme of things. Brooks is scheduled for the skids. Sam Proctor is the governor's choice for the speakership, providing he decides to play it alone.

L. F. Sweeting is sitting on the doorstep of the capitol waiting to take up the duties and to acquire the emoluments which go with the job of chief clerk. He may have some opposition. Buck Lanier, the reading clerk of the regular session, has gone to Florida to cool off, and Hardy is likely to land the job. At least one of the five doorkeepers may be dispensed with.

Chaplain Crutchfield's prayers didn't "take" to any noticeable degree in the regular session, but the venerable sky pilot will doubtless be given another chance.

The senate will probably reorganize along the same lines as at the regular session minus, perhaps, a few of the impendiments. Oscar Cole, for secretary, and Mike Hannon for sergeant-at-arms, are the slates. Rev. Bertrand R. Cocks made himself solid during the regular session by his short, pithy appeals for heavenly succor, and will get the job again. There have been about 400 applications for every "vacancy."

The legislature will convene practically where it left off six weeks ago. The conditions are unchanged except that the members of the Hunt lobby have heard a few things during their visit home. They realize that the rule or ruin policy of the governor is without the sanction of the electorate and that the people are demanding a recognition of their rights; the bringing of the land commission under the law; the passage of public welfare measures, and an active assault with a sharp pruning knife upon the general appropriation.

It is probable that after convening and organization on Friday, an adjournment will be taken until Monday.

Governor Hunt's message will be very short.

"I will wish them well and suggest that they prepare funds to run the different departments," said the governor today.

School land lessees are not the only ones who want the governor to arrange that legislation other than appropriations may be enacted.

Druggists want legislation passed so that alcohol may be imported for prescriptions for laboratory purposes.

The governor has asked both the lessees and the druggists to end in

written statements showing the necessity for the legislation they desire.

Extra Session Organizes.
(Special Dispatch to Era.)

Phoenix, April 23.—The special session of the Second Legislature of Arizona, convened in accordance with the proclamation of the Governor, met at ten o'clock in the capital building with all the members present.

The extra session was hastily organized by the re-election of Sims as President of the Senate and Brooks as Speaker of the house. There were no opposing candidates, the House electing Brooks unanimously on motion of Proctor, who had been touted as his probable opponent.

In the Senate an effort to establish a precedent for future extra sessions was put forth and President Sims, of Cochise County, began his service without the formality of an election.

In nearly every instance the old attaches and clerks were reelected, although L. F. Sweeting, of Greenlee, failed to be re-named Chief Clerk of the House. This appointment went to Peter Munch, of Nogales, who last session served as Assistant Chief Clerk.

The work of the extra session was begun by hearing read the Governor's message, which had been transmitted immediately after the session convened. The message was read to the legislature by the Governor's Secretary. The Governor in his message said he appreciated the fact that there were many subjects of legislation which should receive attention but the results of the first session had shown him that concentration of thought brought the most desired results, consequently he had given the legislature but two subjects upon which to legislate, i. e. the appropriations and the The Governor said that politics and The Governor said that politics and the special interests had handicapped the work of the first session. He urged speed in consummating the work before the extra session. No intimation was conveyed of a succeeding extra session. In the Senate Miss Bertha Throm was again named as the Page for that body.

FIRST HANGING AT THE ARIZONA PEN

Action Took Place on Last Friday But Has Just Been Made Public.

PHOENIX, April 20.—The first hanging to take place in the state prison since Governor Hunt took office was carried out on Friday of last week but did not become public until today.

The hanging will not be entered upon the books of the prison as official, for the man whose life was forfeited "took the law into his own hands," and sent his soul into eternity without consulting the warden or other prison officials.

Jesus Nazarro, sent up from Pinal county over a year ago to serve a sentence of from five to fifteen years for assault with intent to commit murder, had been placed in solitary confinement when he began acting in an erratic manner earlier in the week. On Thursday he attempted to beat out his brains upon the walls of his cell. Thursday night he had quieted down and it was thought his mental state was becoming composed. Friday morning he was found hanging in his cell, a towel tightly knotted about his neck and fastened to a bar of his cell forming the medium of his unofficial hanging.

Nazzaro had been sent up for an unprovoked attack upon a man at a section house at Florence. He had never seen the man before but drew a gun and began shooting the first time he laid eyes upon him. At various times since his incarceration he had acted in a strange manner but each time he seemed to recover his equipoise. A coroner's jury found that he came to his death by hanging at his own hands.

State Engineer Will Return—

Hon. Lamar Cobb, state engineer, left on Tuesday morning for Cochise county, after meeting with the Board of Supervisors on Monday last. Mr. Cobb stated that he would return to Greenlee county in three weeks at which time he and Chairman WHT would take a trip over the proposed east and west state highway, via Gillard Hot Springs for the purpose of viewing that route connecting Greenlee and Graham counties.

2 ESCAPING BANDITS KILLED BY PIMA OFFICERS

TUCSON, April 20.—The climax of the region of terror which has existed for a long period in the Greaterville district was reached yesterday when a pitched battle between two Pima county deputies, and a band of Mexican cattle rustlers took place in a lonely gulch near there. Two Mexicans, members of the Leon family are now dead and the Mexican Jose Maria is dying.

An automobile containing sheriff Forbes, County Attorney Hillzinger, County Physician Pratt and two deputies left for the scene of the battle. The Greaterville district is close to the Mexican border and since the trouble in that country it has been impossible to extradite murderers. The result is numerous killings have ended in the slayers rushing across the line and making frequent raids back into this section.

On March 1, Loretta Yanez, aged 60 owner of over 100 head of cattle disappeared and her nephew, Ramon Barila, aged 25, was also reported missing. A month later the matter was reported at the sheriff's office and a warrant sworn out for Antoni Encinas who was suspected of doing away with the old woman.

A week ago Encinas appeared at midnight in Greaterville and when an arrest was attempted opened fire on the officers. Fifteen shots were exchanged and Encinas was thought to have been wounded, but got away. The sheriff then sent five deputies into that country to get him at any price. Deputies Fenter and Moore were asleep in a shack Sunday night when two pals of Encinas appeared, drew guns and ordered them to leave the country.

Monday, the deputies quietly got the drop on the two men who had stuck them up the night before and placed them under arrest. Fearing a rescue if they remained in Greaterville with the prisoners they took them to a nearby gulch and made camp. During the night the two Leon brothers and the prisoners apparently aided by friends made an attempt to overpower the deputies and get away. In the resulting battle the two Leons went to their deaths before the fire of the Pima county officers. The manner in which Jose Maria, who is said to be dying was wounded, is not known but it is believed he was aiding the captured Leons to make their break for liberty.

The missing woman is believed to have been done away with by Encinas. She is the widow of a man killed by the celebrated outlaw Martinez alias Casanova, two years ago. Encinas was trying to steal her cattle and it is now believed the missing nephew was in league with him.

SANITARY BOARD COMING.

Will Investigate Charges Against Local Cattle Inspector.

On Tuesday evening, May 4th, the Arizona Live Stock Sanitary Board, composed of James A. Johnston, Chairman; Sam B. Bradner, Clerk, and Richard Brady and Ike Deadman, members, will arrive in Clifton for the purpose of holding a meeting with the Greenlee County Cattle Growers' Association.

The meeting will be held in Clifton as a result of charges which have been preferred against Cattle Inspector Miller by the local association and the Board is coming primarily for the purpose of thoroughly investigating these charges.

To say the least Inspector Miller is persona non grata with the local cattlemen. He is charged with inefficiency and pernicious meddling. Furthermore local cattlemen contend that the Board should have appointed a local man as inspector for this county. Mr. Miller was formerly connected with the Chiricahua Cattle company in Graham county.

Mr. Miller states that he is pleased with the coming of the Board and courts the fullest investigation. He further states that he has done nothing except his plain official duty and is glad of the opportunity to face his accusers in person before the Board.

Mrs. D. K. Mason left this week for a visit in Pittsburg, Pa., during the summer. She was accompanied by Mr. Mason as far as Ft. Worth.